

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT ANAKARA 6081 ACTION SECTATE INFO ATHENS NICOISA
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QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 6081

DEPARTMENT PASS TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, TU, GR

SUBJ: TURKISH DIPLOMATIC NOTE CONCERNING SISMIK

1. MFA HAS GIVEN US A COPY OF THE NOTE MFA SEC GEN ELEKDAG
PRESENTED TO GREEK AMBASSADOR COSMADOPOULOS AUGUST 8.
BEGIN TEXT:

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS
TO THE EMBASSY OF GREECE AND WITH REFERENCE TO ITS NOTE
NO. 64242.42/285/AS 2183, OF 7TH OF AUGUST, 1976 HAS THE
HONOUR, UNDER THE INSTRUCTIONS OF ITS GOVERNMENT, TO
COMMUNICATE THE FOLLOWING TO THE GREEK GOVERNMENT:

SINCE THE DELIMITATION OF THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL
SHELF BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE HAS NOT BEEN EFFECTED, THE
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RECENT GREEK ATTEMPT TO QUALIFY CERTAIN AREAS BEYOND THE

TERRITORIAL WATERS IN THE AEGEAN AS " THE GREEK CONTINENTAL SHELF" IS IN CONTRAVENTION WITH THE RULES AND PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. CONSEQUENTLY, THE GREEK CLAIM OF VIOLATION OF THE GREEK SOVEREIGN RIGHTS IS COMPLETELY UNFOUNDED.

THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY WOULD ALSO LIKE TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT TO THE FACT THAT MTA SISMİK I IS CARRYING OUT ITS RESEARCHES OUTSIDE THE TERRITORIAL WATERS IN THE AEGEAN WHERE THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IS YET TO BE DELIMITED.

THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY, WHILE RESERVING ITS POSITION REGARDING THE DELIMITATION OF THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF, WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE THAT UNILATERAL DECLARATIONS OR CLAIMS OF GREECE DO NOT CONSTITUTE A LEGAL BASIS FOR ESTABLISHING SOVEREIGN RIGHTS ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF, ON WHICH TURKEY AND GREECE HAVE UNDERTAKEN BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH A VIEW OF FINDING AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO BOTH PARTIES.

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING CONSIDERATIONS, AS IT HAS BEEN ORALLY EXPRESSED TO THE GREEK AMBASSADOR HIS EXCELLENCY MR. COSMODOPOULOS, ON 7TH OF AUGUST, THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY DEEMS THE PROTEST OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT, WHICH IS DEVOID OF ANY BASIS, TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE.

THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY STATES THAT THE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES SHALL BE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ESTABLISHED PROGRAMME AND URGES THE GREEK GOVERNMENT TO REFRAIN FROM ALL PROVOCATIVE ACTS WHICH MAY HINDER THE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES OF MTA SISMİK I IN THE AEGEAN.

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE EMBASSY OF GREECE THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. END TEXT

2. MFA AEGEAN/LOS CHIEF TURMEN TOLD EMBOFF AUGUST 9 THAT ELEKDAG MADE TWO ADDITIONAL POINTS IN HIS MEETING WITH COSMADOPOULOS. THE FIRST POINT WAS THAT THE GOT DID NOT DESIRE A CONFRONTATION WITH GREECE AND HAD TAKEN MINIMAL PRECAUTIONS FOR PROTECTING THE SISMİK. HOWEVER, THE GOG WAS ATTEMPTING TO HARASS THE OPERATIONS OF THE SHIP. (TURMEN SAID THE HARASSMENT CONSISTED OF A GREEK VESSEL ORDERING THE SISMİK OUT OF WATERS OVER THE
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CONTINENTAL SHELF CLAIMED BY GREECE, OF LOW-ALTITUDE OVERFLIGHTS AND OF A GREEK NAVAL VESSEL'S CUTTING ACROSS ITS BOW AT A "CLOSE" DISTANCE). HOWEVER, HE SAID, ELEKDAG NOTED THAT THE GOT WOULD BE FORCED TO RESPOND IN KIND TO FURTHER INTER-FERENCE WITH THE SISMİK AND THE RESPONSIBILITY WOULD REST WITH GREECE. TURMEN SAID THAT ELEKDAG'S SECOND POINT WAS THAT THE GOT DESIRED THE RESUMPTION OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AT THE EARLIEST DATE POSSIBLE.

3. TURMEN POINTED OUT WHAT HE LABELLED THE "ASYMMETRY" OF THE TWO SIDES' POSITIONS CONCERNING THE SISMİK. THE TURKISH POSITION WAS THAT THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY THE SISMİK DID NOT PREJUDICE EITHER COUNTRY'S CLAIM TO THE CONTINENTAL SHELF. GREECE, ON THE OTHER HAND, BELIEVED THAT PERMITTING THE SISMİK TO OPERATE IN DISPUTED WATERS WOULD PREJUDICE ITS CLAIM. TURMEN ARTICLE 52 OF THE PRESENT LOS SINGLE NEGOTIATING TEXT IN SUPPORT OF THE TURKISH THESIS. HE CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT IF THE GOT ACCEPTED THE GREEK PROTEST AND WITHDREW THE SISMİK, THAT ACTION WOULD CONSTITUTE RECOGNITION OF THE GREEK LEGAL CLAIM TO THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF.
MACOMBER

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